

troops before Delhi behaved most gallantly. Though many and great were the temptations held out, still there were no desertions. But they began to feel and even to show their consciousness of power. The Chief Commissioner believes that there is a limit, beyond which mercenary troops will not remain faithful to their salt. No doubt the better they are treated, the more highly they are disciplined, physically and morally, in the true sense of the term, the longer can they be relied on. But when the hope of success has departed from their breasts; when on all sides they are surrounded by enemies, who with the one hand present certain destruction as the penalty of fidelity, and with the other hand offer a share in the fruits of victory as the reward of desertion, then it were vain to expect that such troops will ever fight for us to the death. Individually they are willing enough to stake their lives for that which is worth the risk. No men care less for safety, provided that they see a fair chance of eventual success. But when once that chance shall vanish, then every mercenary native soldier thinks how he shall best shift for himself. Who shall say how nearly this fatal turn was approached during the late crisis? Again, the Mahomedans of the Punjab, although after having been a vanquished and oppressed race under the Sikhs, they had lived easily and prosperously under British rule, are yet imbued with fanaticism, impatient of control, and prone to change. The temper of these people, in Peshawur and Kohat, is especially wayward and fitful. The Mahomedans, after a time, begun to think that the day of our rule was drawing towards its close, and that time had come when they should strike for power and for plunder. As regards the Sikhs, one decade only has passed since they were the dominant power in the Punjab. They are a highly military race; their prejudices are comparatively few; but their religion constitutes a strong bond of union; though depressed by political disaster, it has still vitality and a power of expansion, through the admission of new converts. It might revive in a moment through any change of circumstances, and spread far and wide. Again, the memory of the Khalsa, or Sikh commonwealth, may sleep, but is not yet dead. A spirit of nationality and military ambition still survive in the minds and hearts of thousands among the Sikhs. It were vain to suppose that thoughts of future triumphs and future independence did not cross the imaginations of these people; that aspirations of restoring the Khalsa were not excited during the summer of 1857. The premonitory symptoms of danger broke out in August and September in two points widely distant from each other, and in the very districts which, perhaps, of all others, had most benefited by our rule. In Huzara and Googaira the emeutes already related arose from no grievance or special cause whatever. They merely sprung from the popular belief that British power was mortally stricken, and they afforded examples of what would soon have happened universally if Delhi had not fallen.

49. It now only remains to record how ably, how zealously, how effectively the Chief Commissioner has been aided by the various classes of officers who served in conjunction with him and under his orders, in his efforts to discharge the difficult duties which fell to his lot.

50. From the military authorities in the Punjab the Chief Commissioner has received much support. They freely and considerably received his advice, and listened to his suggestions. The Chief Commissioner's gratitude is especially due to Major General Sir Sydney Cotton, for the able management of the Peshawur Division, and to

Brigadier S. Corbett, for the promptitude displayed in the disarming of the native troops at Lahore, and to Major Crawford Chamberlain, for the excellent arrangements whereby he disarmed the two native infantry regiments at Mooltan.

51. The Chief Commissioner desires that the obligations be recorded, which he deeply feels to be owing to Brigadier Neville Chamberlain, the commandant of the Punjab Force. To that officer's zeal, ability, and high standard of military excellence, the present character of these troops is much indebted. Immediately after the mutiny broke out he was placed in command of the moveable column. His experience and his counsels were of great value to the Chief Commissioner, during the first days of the crisis. He was subsequently appointed Adjutant-General of the Bengal army, and he was severely wounded before Delhi.

52. Brigadier-General John Nicholson is now beyond human praise and human reward; but so long as British rule shall endure in India his fame can never perish. He seems especially to have been raised up for this juncture. He crowned a bright though brief career by dying of the wound he received in the moment of victory at Delhi. The Chief Commissioner does not hesitate to affirm, that without John Nicholson, Delhi could not have fallen.

53. Among the civil and military officers in administrative employment, the Chief Commissioner's first acknowledgments are due to Mr. Robert Montgomery, the Judicial Commissioner of the Punjab. No one perhaps ever had a more single-minded, active, and determined coadjutor than the Chief Commissioner has possessed in that officer. In the midst of this crisis all persons felt assured when Robert Montgomery was among them. His coolness in danger and his fertility of resource were invaluable.

54. The Chief Commissioner is also much indebted to Mr. D. F. McLeod, the Financial Commissioner, for much valuable advice during this period. There is probably no officer who understands the native character better than Mr. McLeod.

55. Among the divisional and local officers, the post of difficulty and honour was held by Lieutenant Colonel H. B. Edwardes, the Commissioner of Peshawur. Allusion has already been made to the admirable manner in which he discharged his duties. His report on the events which occurred at Peshawur, and in which he played so brilliant a part, is full of deep interest. Captain H. R. James, the Deputy Commissioner, was officiating as the Chief Commissioner's Secretary when the mutiny broke out. Shortly afterwards he voluntarily relinquished the advantages of that post, and returned to Peshawur, to enable Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholson to assume command of the moveable column; as officiating secretary, and subsequently as Deputy Commissioner he performed good service. On several occasions he conducted very successful expeditions in the field. Major J. R. Beecher, as Deputy Commissioner of Huzara, held a very difficult charge, to which he proved himself fully equal. He displayed much resolution, tact, and judgment. Captain Henderson preserved the peace of the difficult district of Kohat, and his arrangements throughout this trying time, gave much satisfaction.

56. The point next to Peshawur in difficulty, was the division of the Cis-Sutlej States. There the population was armed; many classes were tainted with the bad spirit so prevalent in Hindoostan. Through that territory passed the main line of communication between the Punjab and Delhi. Throughout the tract were scattered Sikh chiefs, great and small, some independent, some feudatory. The Chief Commissioner's acknowledg-